



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 2/20/2008

GAIN Report Number: JA8007

Japan

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Changes to the MRLs of Esprocarb, Chlorfenapyr, and other 4 chemicals

2008

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Report Highlights:

On February 15, 2008, MHWL announced proposed changes to the MRLs for the agricultural chemicals Esprocarb, Chlorfenapyr, Cyenopyrafen, Dithiopyr, Silafluofen and Pyrifthalid. MHLW will notify these changes to the WTO SPS Committee.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Executive Summary

On February 15, 2008, MHLW announced proposed changes to the MRLs for the agricultural chemicals Esprocarb, Chlorfenapyr, Cyenopyrafen, Dithiopyr, Silafluofen and Pyrifthalid. MHLW will notify these changes to the WTO SPS Committee.

Purpose

The period for comments directly to MHLW will close February 29, 2008. However MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which would be the last chance for public comments to be submitted on this subject. Then after the closing of a the comment period in the WTO, a report to the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare will be made based on the conclusions of a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council slated to be held at a later date, and this will constitute the final decision.

If you have comments that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the official U.S. Government comments to the MHLW, please send those as soon as possible to the Agriculture Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, at agtokyo@usda.gov.

For comments directly to MHLW, please send those to following contacts.

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Agenda 1. Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for the Pesticides (Esprocarb, Chlorfenapyr, Cyenopyrafen, Dithiopyr, Silafluofen and Pyrifthalid) in FoodPurpose and Background

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is going to develop the compositional specification for food.

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Law, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare is authorized to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (referred to as just "agricultural chemicals") that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed unless such food complies with the established standards.

On May 29, 2006, the MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food.* Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system.

This time the MHLW has reviewed MRLs for some pesticides which had been provisionally established at the time of the introduction of the new system. Also, the MHLW has newly established draft MRLs for some food commodities.

This activity is targeted to 6 chemicals: Esprocarb, Chlorfenapyr, Cyenopyrafen, Dithiopyr, Silafluofen and Pyrifthalid. Details are given below.

Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Law. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese marketplace if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) specified under the Law.

Outline of revision

Esprocarb (Herbicide): This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW has newly established a MRL (draft) for the "aquatic animals" category.

Chlorfenapyr (Insecticide): This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. In response to MAFF's action, the MHLW has comprehensively reviewed the existing MRLs to established MRLs for new targets.

Cyenopyrafen (Insecticide): This chemical is not permitted for use in Japan. This time MAFF has decided to approve the chemical based on the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law. In response to MAFF's decision, the MHLW has newly established MRLs (draft) for some crops. Currently, MRLs are not set for any crops.

Dithiopyr (Herbicide): This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW has reviewed MRLs which had been provisionally established at the time of the introduction of the new system. Also, the MHLW has newly established a MRL (draft) for the "aquatic animals" category.

Silafluofen (Insecticide): This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will expand the scope of target crops for which the use of the chemical is permitted. In response to MAFF's action, the MHLW has comprehensively reviewed the existing MRLs to establish MRLs for new targets.

Pyrifthalid (Herbicide): This chemical is already permitted for use in Japan. The MHLW has reviewed MRLs which had been provisionally established at the time of the introduction of the new system.

For draft MRLs, see Attachments 1-1 through 1-6.

The existing MRLs for chlorfenapyr, dithiopyr, silafluofen and pyrifthalid appear in either of the MRLs List (the Item 6, Section A "General Compositional Standards for Food," Part I "Food" in the Specifications and Standards for Food, Food Additives, Etc.) or Provisional MRLs List (Item 7, Section A), according to food commodities. These MRLs have been modified as necessary. Finalized MRLs for these chemicals will be placed on the MRLs List in Item 6, and the MRLs currently placed in Item 7 will be deleted.

Attachment. 1-1

Esprocarb(Herbicide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice	0.02	0.1
Aquatic animals	0.2	

Attachment: 1-2

Chlorfenapyr (insecticide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) (ppm)	Current MRL (ppm)
Rice (brown rice)		0.05
Wheat		0.05
Barley		0.05
Rye		0.05
Corn (maize)		0.05
Buckwheat		0.05
Other cereal grains ¹		0.05
Beans, dry ²	0.05	0.1
Peas		0.1
Broad beans		0.1
Peanuts, dry		0.1
Other leguminous ³		0.1
Potato		0.1
Taro	0.03	0.1
Sweet potato	0.05	0.1
Yam	0.05	0.1
Konjac		0.1
Other potatoes ⁴		0.1
Sugar beet	0.5	0.5
Japanese radish, roots	0.1	0.1
Japanese radish, leaves	3	3
Turnip, roots	0.2	0.1
Turnip, leaves	15	3
Horseradish		0.1
Watercress		3
Chinese cabbage	1	1
Cabbage	0.7	1
Brussels sprouts	0.3	1
Kale	10	3
Komatsuna, Japanese mustard spinach	5	3
Hyoma	10	3
Qing-jing-cai	10	3
Cauliflower	1	3
Broccoli	1	3
Other cruciferous vegetables ⁵	10	3
Burdock		0.1
Salsify		0.1
Artichoke		3
Chicory		3
Endive		3
Shungiku		3
Lettuce	20	3
Other composite vegetables ⁶	20	3

Chlorfenapyr(Continued)

Commodity	MRL draft: ppm	Current MRL ppm
Onion		0.05
Welsh (including leek)	3	3
Garlic		0.05
Nine		3
Asparagus	0.5	3
Multiplying onion		3
Other liliaceous vegetables ⁷	0.7	3
Carrot		0.1
Parsnips		0.1
Parsley		3
Celery	3	3
Mitsuba	3	3
Other umbelliferous vegetables ⁸	2	3
Tomato	1.0	1
Pimento (sweet pepper)	1	1
Egg plant	1	1
Other solanaceous vegetables ⁹	5	1
Cucumber	1	1
Pumpkin	0.5	1
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)	1	1
Water melon	0.05	0.1
Melons		0.1
Melons (cantaloup melon)		0.1
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables ¹⁰	1	1
Spinach		3
Bamboo shoots		0.1
Okra	0.7	1
Ginger		0.1
Peas, immature (with pods)	2	0.05
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.05
Green soybeans		0.05
Button mushroom		0.05
Shiitake mushroom		0.05
Other mushrooms ¹¹		0.05
Other vegetables ¹²	2	3
Unloose orange, pulp	0.5	0.5
Citrus aurantidulcis, whole	2	2
Lemon	2	2
Orange	2	2
Grapefruit	2	2
Lime	2	2
Other citrus fruits ¹³	2	3

Chlorfenapyr (Continued)

Commodity	MRL (drift) (ppm)	Current MRL (ppm)
Apple	2	1
Japanese pear	1	1
Pear	1	1
Quince	0.5	1
Loquat	0.5	0.1
Peach	0.05	0.1
Nectarine	1	1
Apicot		5
Japanese plum		5
Mume plum		5
Cherry	1	5
Strawberry	5	0.1
Raspberry		5
Blackberry		5
Blueberry		5
Cranberry		5
Huckleberry		5
Other berries ¹⁴		5
Grape	5	5
Japanese persimmon	1	1
Banana	2	1
Kiwifruit		0.1
Papaya		1
Avocado		1
Pineapple		1
Guava		1
Mango	0.3	1
Passion fruit		1
Date		5
Other fruits ¹⁵	2	5
Cotton seeds	0.5	0.5
Ginkgo nut		0.05
Chestnut		0.05
Pecan		0.05
Almond		0.05
Walnut		0.05
Other nuts ¹⁶		0.05
Tea	40	50
Hop		0.1
Other solives ¹⁸	10	5
Other herbs ¹⁹	10	3
Cattle, muscle	0.01	0.05
Pig, muscle	0.01	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals ²⁰ , muscle	0.01	0.05

Chlorfenapyr Continued)

Commodity	MRL (drift) (ppm)	Current MRL (ppm)
Cattle, fat	0.05	0.05
Pig, fat	0.05	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, fat	0.05	0.05
Cattle, liver	0.05	0.05
Pig, liver	0.05	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, liver	0.05	0.05
Cattle, kidney	0.05	0.05
Pig, kidney	0.05	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, kidney	0.05	0.05
Cattle, edible offal	0.05	0.05
Pig, edible offal	0.05	0.05
Other terrestrial mammals, edible offal	0.05	0.05
Milk	0.01	0.01
Chicken, muscle	0.01	0.01
Other poultry ²⁾ , muscle	0.01	0.01
Chicken, fat	0.01	0.01
Other poultry, fat	0.01	0.01
Chicken, liver	0.01	0.01
Other poultry, liver	0.01	0.01
Chicken, kidney	0.01	0.01
Other poultry, kidney	0.01	0.01
Chicken, edible offal	0.01	0.01
Other poultry, edible offal	0.01	0.01
Chicken, eggs	0.01	0.01
Other poultry, eggs	0.01	0.01

Attachment 1-3

Cyenopyrafen(Insecticide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Egg plant	0.7	
Water melon	0.05	
Unshu orange, pulp	0.05	
Citrus nobiloides/ whole	2	
Lemon	2	
Orange	2	
Grapefruit	2	
Lime	2	
Other citrus fruits ¹⁾	2	
Apple	2	
Japanese pear	2	
Pear	2	
Peach	0.1	
Cherry	2	
Strawberry	2	
Tea	60	
Other spices ²⁾	10	

Attachment: 3-4

Dithiopyr Herbicide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice	0.01	0.1
Aquatic animals	0.2	

Attachment 1-5

Silaflupfen (insecticide)

Commodity	MRL (craft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice (brown rice)	0.3	0.5
Wheat		0.05
Barley		0.05
Rye		0.05
Corn (maize)		0.05
Buckwheat		0.05
Other cereal grains ¹		0.05
Soybeans, dry	0.1	0.1
Beans, dry ²		0.05
Pean		0.05
Broad beans		0.05
Peanuts, dry		0.05
Other legumes/pulses ³		0.05
Potato		0.1
Taro		0.1
Sweet potato	0.1	0.1
Yam		0.1
Konjac		0.1
Other potatoes ⁴		0.1
Sugar beet		0.05
Sugarcane		0.05
Japanese radish, roots		0.05
Japanese radish, leaves		0.05
Turnip, roots		0.05
Turnip, leaves		0.05
Horse radish		0.05
Watercress		0.05
Chinese cabbage		0.05
Cabbage		0.05
Brussels sprouts		0.05
Kale		0.05
Komatsuna, Japanese mustard spinach		0.05
Kyona		0.05
Ging-gang-bai		0.05
Chiaiflower		0.05
Broccoli		0.05
Other cruciferous vegetables ⁵		0.05
Burdock		0.05
Salsify		0.05
Artichoke		0.05
Chicory		0.05
Endive		0.05
Shungiku		0.05
Lettuce		0.05
Other composite vegetables ⁶		0.05

SilaQuin® (Continued):

Commodity	MRL (draft): ppm	Current MRL ppm
Onion		0.05
Welsh (including leek)		0.05
Garlic		0.05
Asparagus		0.05
Multiplying onion		0.05
Other liliaceous vegetables ⁷		0.05
Carrot		0.05
Parsnip		0.05
Parsley		0.05
Celery		0.05
Chicuba		0.05
Other umbelliferous vegetables ⁸		0.05
Tomato		0.05
Pinkette (sweet pepper)		0.05
Egg plant		0.05
Other solanaceous vegetables ⁹		0.05
Cucumber		0.05
Pumpkin		0.05
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.05
Water melon		0.05
Melons		0.05
Muskmelon melon		0.05
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables ¹⁰		0.05
Spinach		0.05
Bamboo shoots		0.05
Oliva		0.05
Ginger		0.05
Peas (immature (with pods)		2
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		2
Green soybeans	2	2
Button mushroom		0.05
Shiitake mushroom		0.05
Other mushrooms ¹¹		0.05
Other vegetables ¹²	0.1	2
Unshw orange, pulp	0.2	0.2
Citrus natsudaidai, whole	3	3
Lemon	3	3
Orange	3	3
Grapefruit	3	3
Lime	3	3
Other citrus fruits ¹³	3	3
Apple	3	3
Japanese pear	1	2
Pear	1	2
Quince		0.05
Loquat		0.05

Silafluofen (Continued)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Peach	0.1	0.05
Nectarine		5
Apricot		0.05
Japanese plum		0.05
Mume plum		0.05
Cherry		0.05
Strawberry		0.05
Raspberry		0.05
Blackberry		0.05
Blueberry		0.05
Cranberry		0.05
Huckleberry		0.05
Other berries ¹⁴		0.05
Grape	2	0.05
Japanese persimmon		2
Banana		5
Kiwifruit		0.05
Papaya		5
Avocado		5
Pineapple		5
Guava		5
Mango		5
Passion fruit		5
Date		0.05
Other fruits ¹⁵		5
Sunflower seeds		0.05
Sesame seeds		0.05
Safflower seeds		0.05
Cotton seeds		0.05
Rapeseeds		0.05
Other oil seeds ¹⁶		0.05
Ginkgo nut		0.05
Chestnut		0.05
Pecan		0.05
Almond		0.05
Walnut		0.05
Other nuts ¹⁷		0.05
Tea	35	35
Coffee beans		0.05
Cacao beans		0.05
Hop		0.05
Other spices ¹⁸	10	5
Other herbs ¹⁹		2
Aquatic animals	0.4	

Attachment 1-5

Pyridithalol (Herbicide)

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	Current MRL ppm
Rice	0.02	0.1

Note:

The uniform limit (0.01 ppm) will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given. Some limits in the column of "MRL (draft)" remain unchanged from the current MRLs. Currently, an MRL of 0.05 ppm is set for silafluofen on some crops, instead of the uniform limit (0.01 ppm), because the determination limit of the applicable analytical method was 0.05 ppm at the time of standards setting.

By this review, the uniform limit will be applied to these crops because the improved method has enabled the determination of silafluofen to the level of 0.01 ppm.

1. "Other cereal grains" refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize), and buckwheat.
2. "Beans (dry)" includes butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pegia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans.
3. "Other legumes/pulses" refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry), peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry), and spices.
4. "Other potatoes" refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam, and konjac.
5. "Other cruciferous vegetables" refers to all cruciferous vegetables, except Japanese radish roots and leaves (including radish), turnip roots and leaves, horseradish, watercress, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale, komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach), kyona, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli, and herbs.
6. "Other composite vegetables" refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, shungiku, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce), and herbs.
7. "Other liliaceous vegetables" refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, nira, asparagus, multiplying onion, and herbs.
8. "Other umbelliferous vegetables" refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, mitsuba, spices, and herbs.
9. "Other solanaceous vegetables" refers to all solanaceous vegetables, except tomato, pimiento (sweet pepper), and egg plant.
10. "Other cucurbitaceous vegetables" refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons, and makuwauri melon.
11. "Other mushrooms" refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom, and shiitake mushroom.
12. "Other vegetables" refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, solanaceous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green soybeans, mushrooms, spices, and herbs.

13. "Other citrus fruits" refers to all citrus fruits, except unshu orange (pulp), citrus natsudaïdai (pulp), citrus natsudaïdai (peel), citrus natsudaïdai (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime, and spices.
14. "Other berries" refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberry.
15. "Other fruits" refers to all fruits, except citrus fruits, apple, Japanese pear, pear, quince, loquat, peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plum (including prune), mume plum, cherry, berries, grape, Japanese persimmon, banana, kiwifruit, papaya, avocado, pineapple, guava, mango, passion fruit, date and spices.
16. "Other oil seeds" refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.
17. "Other nuts" refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.
18. "Other spices" refers to all spices, except horseradish, wasabi (Japanese horseradish) rhizomes, garlic, peppers chili, paprika, ginger, lemon peels, orange peels (including navel orange), yuzu (Chinese citron) peels and sesame seeds.
19. "Other herbs" refers to all herbs, except watercress, nira, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.
20. "Other terrestrial mammals" refers to all terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.
21. "Other poultry" refers to all poultry, except chicken.